

**DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT
PERMANENT SUPPORT HOUSING RFA (PSH2024EMS)
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. Question: Within these 2 RFAs, is there a request/requirement for nutritional meals for these targeted populations? I read through them both but wanted to understand how these vulnerable folks are fed and by whom. Happy to work with CoA and/or partners to include nutrition in these programs.

Answer: The City does not require nutritional meals for the target populations as a necessary program component of the RFA# PSH2024EMS or RFA# RPS2024EMS, however nutritional meals are not an unallowable cost if proposed as a component of a comprehensive program that meets the purpose of either RFA as outlined on page 1 of Form 2.

2. Question: I noticed that only “qualified non-profits and government providers” are eligible to apply... can I assume that as a CoA vendor we qualify? Of course, we’d only be interested in any nutrition/meal requirements if that requirement is included in the RFAs.

Answer: As stated on page 3 of Form 2 – Scope of Work, Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for a grant award through this solicitation process.

- a. Applicants shall be a nonprofit or government entity that can legally contract with the City of Austin (City)
 1. City policy does not permit entering into an agreement with an entity that owes taxes to the City.
 2. The Applicant and its principals may not be currently suspended or debarred from doing business with the Federal Government, as indicated by the United States General Services Administration list of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs, the State of Texas, or the City of Austin.
- b. Applicants shall be able to meet the City’s insurance requirements for social services grantees. See the insurance requirements in Exhibit B of the RFA.
- c. The Applicant’s Board of Directors shall:
 1. Have specific terms delineated by a beginning and ending date
 2. Meet in person a minimum of four times per fiscal year
- d. Within the last five years, the Applicant shall have a minimum of two years successful experience working with the proposed target populations and/or providing the proposed service(s) to clients.

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3. Question: I'm wanting to know more information, on placement for the individuals and what is the criteria you have to meet and let me know if I can be some assistance. I have a personal care home.

Answer: As stated on page 1 of Form 2 – Scope of Work, section under Purpose: DACC ICM staff will provide the majority of all supportive services to the clients served through this funding opportunity while the successful Applicant will be responsible for providing the permanent support housing. Programs eligible for funding in this RFA includes single-site or scattered-site permanent supportive housing.

Please refer to response in question 2 for applicant criteria.

4. Question: What is the population, homeless?

Answer: As stated on page 4 of Form 2 – Scope of Work, section under Program Strategies & Target Population:

The target population includes individuals who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness and present themselves to the DACC ICM staff where it is determined that a referral to the successful Applicant would be beneficial in assisting the client to transition from homeless to housing. Historically, DACC ICM clients:

- Are high users of public services such as homeless shelters, EMS, hospital emergency rooms, Austin State Hospital, jails, and courts;
- Have a history of substance use that is periodically disabling;
- Have a persistent mental illness that is periodically disabling;
- Have ongoing physical health issues that present barriers to employment; and
- Have a criminal history ranging from Class C misdemeanors to felonies

5. Question: What is the rent rate?

Answer: As stated on page 12 of Form 2 – Scope of Work, item 2.3 :

For reference, the Fair Market Rent in the Austin/Metro area is established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. There are situations that may require higher rent. For instance, there may be barriers for particular clients, such as criminal histories that make it difficult to find units within this price range.

[FY 2024 Final Fair Market Rents Documentation System \(huduser.gov\)](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pressroom/2024/fair-market-rent-2024)

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6. Question: Is there preference to give both to one entity or will the 2 RFAs be competitive regardless of which entity receives one or the other? (My org does not do PSH (we refer) but we do SOAR support for this population.

Answer: No preference is given to an applicant who applies for both PSH2024EMS and RPS2024EMS RFAs.

7. Question: While additional funding not req, if we are using, must we include?

Answer: Only include funding in the budget that is certain to be part of the proposed program.

8. Question: If signature required then I assume post ward, contract negotiation is not an option? Some City boilerplate can/should be tweaked regarding outdated insurance language as compared with the new industry standards and availability of certain clauses in the current insurance market:

Answered: The City will negotiate a final contract with the awarded Applicant(s).

9. Question: Apartments or transitional housing? How long do you fund them?

Answer: This program is for permanent housing so anticipate funding that individual for perpetuity if they need that resource. We will work to get clients on a voucher or other sustainable housing program while being served in the program. In absence of that, we will continue to fund directly.

If the unit meets definition of PSH unit then it will be acceptable.

10. Question: Are prior contracts publicly available?

Answer: Prior contracts are not posted online but can be requested through a Public Information Request.

11. Question: How will referrals be made?

Answer: As stated on page 1 of Form 2 – Scope of Work, under Introduction: The proposed program shall target individuals enrolled in the DACC’s ICM program and referrals into the proposed program will come solely and directly from DACC ICM staff.

A referral process will be developed with the awarded Applicant(s) and our ICM program.

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12. Question: In the Scope of Work, item 1.5 states that applicants should be able to place individuals into existing units within 72 hours of referral from DACC. Can you elaborate on this point? If this is a hard requirement, will this funding be able to pay for vacant units or transitional/bridge housing?

Answer: This timeframe is a desire but understanding the market we live in and when units are available, or the time it takes to locate the client etc. It will not be a contractual requirement to housing a referral within 72 hours. We would like an Applicant to provide information about what is realistic from the Applicant's standpoint about time of referral to getting someone in a unit.

13. Question: Do you have to be a non-profit to participate?

Answer: Please see the response provided for Question #2.

14. Question: Can we serve a certain population?

Answer: Please see the response to Question #7. You cannot turn away a referral without a very clear and specific reason, i.e., prior history with that client, restraining order, etc.

15. Question: What is the target # of men/women that need to be served.

Answer: There is no specific target of number of men or women that need to be served outlined in the solicitation. Individuals referred for service will come solely and directly from DACC ICM staff that need the proposed services and are appropriate to refer over.

16. Question: How many initial beds for service are needed or is this based on amount received.

Answer: This will be based on the number that you propose, and how you set up your proposal. Right now, we have two contracts: one for 47 units, another for 16. In total, we have an investment of \$1.4 million for those 63 units.

17. Question: Are prior contracts publicly available?

Answer: Please see the response to Question #10. Right now, there are two PSH agreements in place. Link to Public Information Request:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/service/request-public-information-or-records>

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18. Question: At the pre-offer conference I believe that Robert said that we could request contracts that were awarded by DACC to previous applicants by contacting you. If that is incorrect, please let me know the best way to request a copy of the current contracts.

Answer: The solicitation website has the responses to the questions posed during the conference. I would like to refer you to question #10, which states that you can submit a public information request. Link:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/service/request-public-information-or-records>